

REMARKS

Claims 13-27 are pending and active in the application. By amendment above, Claim 13 has been amended to recite that the metal alloy is a platinum-metal alloy, that the second metal is selected from nickel, cobalt, lead, and tin and that the acidic bath has a pH ranging from about 0.5 to 3.0.

Claims 13-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,789,320 to Andricacos et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,376,018 to Kohl and the publication by Brenner entitled "Electrodeposition of Alloys." For the following reasons, applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted above, independent Claim 13, from which the balance of the remaining claims ultimately depend, has been amended to recite a method for depositing platinum-metal alloy wherein the second metal is selected from nickel, cobalt, lead, and tin, and the pH of the acidic bath ranges from about 0.5 to 3.0. Andricacos et al., Kohl and Brenner alone or in combination do not teach or suggest a method for depositing a platinum metal alloy that includes these features.

Andricacos et al. is silent with respect to the pH of the acidic solutions described by Andricacos et al. at Col. 3, line 44. Kohl does not teach or suggest a platinum containing electroplating bath having a pH ranging from about 0.5 to 3.0. Brenner does not teach a platinum alloy plating bath that comprises cobalt, tin, lead or nickel and has a pH ranging from about 0.5 to 3.0.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants assert that the subject matter of Claim 13, as amended above, and the claims that depend therefrom, is novel and nonobvious over Andricacos et al. in view of Kohl and/or Brenner. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and allowance of the application. If the reviewing party

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has any questions regarding the above, he is invited to call applicants' attorney at the number listed below so that any outstanding issues can be resolved in a timely and efficient manner.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first-class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

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